

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-6 remain pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated April 8, 2005, claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chicckine (4,221,118) in view of Mason (4,497,186) and claim 3 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chicckine in view of Mason and further in view of Sustain (DES 175,867).

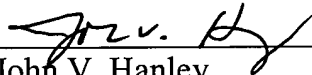
In response to the rejection of the claims under § 103(a), Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite a secure interchangeable earring including a free end which is configured generally perpendicular to a longitudinal dimension of the earring body and longitudinally closer to a top of the earring body than a blocked end and a charm when the earring is worn on an ear. Similarly, independent method claim 5 has been amended to recite configuring the free end to be longitudinally closer to the top end than the blocked end and the charm. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art. Significantly, neither the Chicckine nor the Sustain patents teach an earring having a free end which is configured both generally perpendicular to a longitudinal dimension of the earring body and longitudinally closer to a top end than a blocked end and a charm. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that each of the pending claims are in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to completely respond to the outstanding Office action.
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH:kst
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
103256.1